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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of John Mahlan Stevens, who passed away on June 9, 2016; and

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WHEREAS, John Stevens was born on January 16, 1963; and

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WHEREAS, John Stevens enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on November 29, 1982; he retired honorably in 2004, having served his country for more than 22 years during peacetime and in combat; and

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WHEREAS, John Stevens rose through the ranks from Private to Chief Warrant Officer-3; he served in various leadership roles during his military career, serving as a highly trained and skilled tactical communications expert; he was later unanimously selected for the Marine Warrant Officer Program to become a network management officer; and

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WHEREAS, The highlight of John Stevens' military career was becoming a Force Reconnaissance Marine; as a member of the historic 2nd Force Reconnaissance Company, he was hand-selected to attend more than 14 of the most comprehensive and challenging intelligence gathering programs in the United States Armed Forces involving classified high-risk evolutions

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1 and real-world sensitive joint operations at the national and
2 international level; he was one of the first Marines to
3 participate in a United Nations-sanctioned competition for the
4 world's top military commandos and anti-terrorist specialists,
5 as part of the United States Presidential "Partnership for
6 Peace" initiative; and

7 WHEREAS, John Stevens attended Amphibious Reconnaissance
8 School, NCO Leadership School, SNCO Career Program, SNCO
9 Advanced Program, the Warfighting Skills Program,
10 Communications Systems School, Chief Warrant Officer Basic
11 School, Marine Corps Signals Intelligence School, Network
12 Management School, and numerous classified training
13 qualifications; and

14 WHEREAS, John Stevens was the recipient of numerous
15 military awards, including the Meritorious Service Medal with
16 Gold Star, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Joint Service
17 Achievement Medal, the Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal
18 with two Gold Stars, the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon with
19 eight stars, the National Defense Service Medal with one star,
20 the Southwest Asia Service Medal with two stars, the Marine
21 Corps Good Conduct Medal with four stars, the Humanitarian
22 Service Medal with one star, the NATO Medal, the Armed Forces
23 Service Medal, the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait), the United
24 Nations Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Kuwait

1 Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia), the Joint Meritorious Unit
2 Award with one star, a Meritorious Unit Commendation with one
3 star, and the Navy & Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon; he
4 earned numerous Meritorious Masts, Letters of Appreciation,
5 Certificates of Commendation, and dozens of laudable service
6 acknowledgment letters, reports and recommendations; his
7 military breast insignias include United States Marine Corps
8 Combatant Diver, Navy & Marine Corps Gold Parachute Wings,
9 Special Forces Military Freefall Insignia, and Expert Rifle &
10 Pistol Badges, reflecting multiple awards; and

11 WHEREAS, John Stevens is survived by his wife, Analiza
12 Stevens; his daughters, Samantha Smith and Louva and Havana
13 Stevens; his son, Brandon Stevens; his mother, Aurelia "Mickey"
14 Shannon Miller; his sister, Julya (John) Myers; his nephew,
15 Daniel Myers; his nieces, Marcia Myers and Megan Myers; and his
16 great-niece, Skylar Williams; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
18 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we, along with his
19 family and friends, mourn the passing of John Mahlan Stevens;
20 and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
22 presented to the family of John Stevens as an expression of our
23 sympathy.